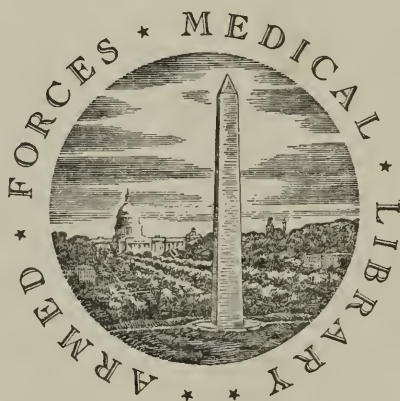




UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



FOUNDED 1836

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WASHINGTON, D.C.





INTERESTING ESSAYS,  
CHIEFLY ON THE SUBJECT OF THE  
YELLOW FEVER,  
INTERSPERSED WITH SOME REMARKS ON THE  
PROGRESS OF THE PREPARATIONS FOR A  
*PERMANENT BRIDGE;*

AND OCCASIONALLY CONTAINING A FEW OBSERVATIONS, RELATIVE  
TO THE GREAT CAUSE OF GENERAL HUMANITY.

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BY A PHILADELPHIAN.

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Addressed to those of all classes, who without any improper prejudice,  
are willing to see, that subjects of great importance may be treated of  
with all due attention to truth; and even with respectful consideration  
in regard to those, whoever they may be, who on some occasions have  
expressed a difference of sentiment.

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PHILADELPHIA:

Printed by BUDD & BARTRAM, No. 58, North Second Street.

December, 1802.





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## INTERESTING ESSAYS.

*PHILADELPHIA, November 13th, 1802.*

**H**AVING again returned to the city after an absence from it of nearly three months, I was glad to see many of my fellow-citizens who as well as myself have been favored to escape the late existing dangers, and have it yet in our power to reflect on recent circumstances.

It may be well remembered, that as early as the latter part of March last, an intimation was given in the American Daily Advertiser, that as there was a danger to our city from the probability of arrivals from St. Domingo with an infectious disease; it would be well to be properly guarded against the introduction of that dreadful calamity. This caution (without knowing the author) I thought a very good one, and could have wished to have seen it seconded by any person whatever, in a manner which I think it duly merited, but after waiting several days without seeing it otherwise publicly noticed, I believed it right to forward a piece to the printer of that paper, which he was so obliging as to pub-

lish the eighth of April following. In that piece, without pretending to any extraordinary foresight, more than might have naturally arisen from the certain knowledge of what had happened in some of the latter years—I say, in that piece it was particularly mentioned, that at some times, a single infected vessel might again be a means of putting to flight many thousands of the inhabitants of our city; and now as numerous recent circumstances are well known to thousands, by the most authentic information, may I not ask any person who has dwelt in our city only the space of ten years, whether in his opinion, the same causes may not produce the like effects, even at a future time; and if so, whether this is not a subject worthy of due consideration, notwithstanding the present healthy state of our inhabitants?

To ward off evils, as far as may be in our power, I believe is right, and that the reasonable caution which was used to prevent the importation of the yellow fever into our city in the years 1800 and 1801 was very necessary; and as the good effects of that care in those years, were so remarkably evident, I hope no person will find fault with such an opinion.

Is it possible that any of my fellow-citizens who have given any attention to this matter, and wish



for the general welfare, can think a native of Philadelphia too officious, in adverting, with renewed concern, to a subject of such magnitude, when the strictest truth is his object, and his design to be studious of avoiding the expression of any sentiment that may give just occasion of offence to a single individual.

In full confidence therefore of the rectitude of my intentions, I proceed to consider in a brief manner some of the late circumstances, without entering on such particulars as may interfere with other writers, who have already exhibited to the public a great number of cases of sickness and mortality, as well as their observations on the nature of the origin of such distress.

One thing in particular I now think truly deserving of notice. Since my return, I have seen in the Philadelphia Gazette dated the 6th November, a comparative statement of the number of deaths in the city, in the years 1793, '97, '98, '99, and 1802, and as other publications will shew numerous particulars relative to the commencement of the disease this year, I shall just repeat the account of that statement from the first to the sixth of August, when the board of health gave public notice of their belief of the propriety of thinning the city by an immediate removal to the country.

*The comparative statement for five days is as follows :*

		1793	1797	1798	1799	1802
August	1	9	5	5	9	11
	2	8	4	4	10	14
	3	9	7	6	10	16
	4	10	10	5	8	19
	5	10	6	7	9	10
		46	32	27	46	70

Thus we see the mortality in those five days in the current year, was considerably greater than had been for the same time in either of those preceding years, which were so remarkable for the importation of the malignant fever. In the papers dated the 6th August, numerous new cases were reported, and sundry deaths were particularly mentioned; and who can say that under such circumstances there was any impropriety in the formidable alarm published the same day by the board of health? For my part I think it was truly commendable, if not absolutely incumbent; and the consequence was, that thousands in a little time hastened from their habitations and thinned the city, by which means there can be no doubt that many lives were saved; the powers of the contagion were evidently checked, and the danger exceedingly lessened even to those who remained, who had also this advantage, that there

was a greater probability of a competent supply of provisions than could have been expected, especially if the disease had increased, with its well known attendant terrors, among a large proportion of the usual inhabitants.

And now, as it will not interfere with the future observations of others respecting a continuance of particulars, relative to the progress of the calamity in our city, after the month of September last, I shall advert to another matter of a very affecting nature, which I find an account of in the American Daily Advertiser, concerning the town of Wilmington, Delaware. In that paper dated the 9th instant there is a publication of the board of health for that place, containing a very respectful memorial of one of their members, John Ferris, jun. who fell a victim to the mortal fever on the first instant; of whom they say, “as soon as the disease appeared, which has made such ravages among our citizens, and consigned 82 of them to their silent graves, he commenced his arduous services, and during its continuance, did not intermit his attention to the sick, the dying, and the dead.” After other particulars respecting his exertions, they conclude that he “left on the hearts of his fellow-citizens a grateful remembrance of his labors and his virtues.”

On this occasion, I have a thankful sense, that several of my valuable fellow-citizens who have been

thus employed, have been preserved through the late existing dangers in the city of Philadelphia.

Here again a comparative statement may be properly made: Wilmington is remarkable for the advantages of a free circulation of country air, the water good, and the general state of cleanliness in that place perhaps never disputed. In all these respects, may not Wilmington be equalled to the city of Burlington; where it is believed there was but one death by the malignant fever during the late summer, and that was a person who had gone there from our afflicted city. No such thing therefore as the yellow fever being a native disorder, either in Wilmington or Burlington, could be suspected, with even the shadow of reason or propriety. But a communication with the infection of the imported disorder may readily account for such comparative mortality: and when a disease is prevalent in any city, who that knows the near affections of relationship, or the disagreeableness of confinement, can doubt the frequency of such communication. To the sorrowful experience of many survivors it is well known, that several active men, in the prime of life, anxious to resume their business, by returning too soon to our city, were seized with the prevailing sickness, and fell victims to the mortal disease.

In addition to a number of those who fell in the latter part of October, a young man, who was taken

ill but a few days before the remarkable frost which happened on the second instant, died of the mortal distemper, and was buried a few hours after on the sixth of the present month. This young man had returned to the city about two weeks before he was taken ill; he was told, soon after his arrival, of numbers who had lately died, and was advised to go back to his family in the country, where an ample provision for his maintenance might no doubt have been at his command; but alas! it was his lot to be cut off at a time, when the citizens were mostly returned to their habitations, and believed the season was so advanced as to preclude every idea of general danger.

Thus having mentioned a few particulars which I think the most proper at the present time, perhaps there may be no impropriety in changing the subject; nevertheless in full hope, that with the blessing of Providence, and a reasonable care of my countrymen, our city may be guarded hereafter against the importation of foreign disease; and if so, that a great number of those who are now survivors, may enjoy the prospect of greater safety, and have a favourable chance of seeing the progress of a public work to its proper issue, as I believe it is now forwarding on the most honourable principles; I mean the work across the river Schuylkil; which noble river has been to me as well as to many of my fellow citizens,

an object of our delight from early youth to a state of manhood, and even far beyond the period most commonly distinguished by that title.

A permanent bridge has been projected, I most heartily wish it success to its full accomplishment, and hope to be excused if I make a few remarks on this occasion.

On the 17th instant I walked out towards the river, with some expectation that I might see the rock, on which the second, and most important pier is intended to be founded; but great was my disappointment, when instead of this I heard a misfortune had happened, and that a leak in the coffre-dam had occasioned such a difficulty, that to prevent a greater mischief, it had been thought necessary to admit again so much water that the pumps were afresh employed, with more than usual power of men and horses, to free the works from the impeding element, which is so excellent a servant but so bad a master.

This at first appeared discouraging, but when I remembered what had happened to the enormous collection of waters intended for the canal some years since, and the ideas I then had of what might have been done by a Brindley in case of accident, so in my opinion, what was now going forward respecting the coffre-dam, was exactly consistent with those ideas;



and the proper business was, as I believed, to repair the breach, and attempt to counteract the difficulty, with manly fortitude, as soon as possible.

Some may say this man writes as if he would give countenance to great and extravagant expenses; on which occasion I hope a small portion of freedom of sentiment may be excusable. I do understand that this bridge business is undertaken by a company at their own risk. If it succeeds and should be properly executed it will be a public benefit, and in that case, I cannot see why the company should not be reasonable gainers, if it does not succeed, they pretend to no right to call upon others to bear their losses: and as to expenses beyond the necessary and reasonable bounds, I hope the directors will proceed, after the piers and abutments may be finished, with prudent caution, and due regard to their funds. Shall I say, without saying any more as to the after progress of the bridge, that I have heard with pleasure of the manner of building bridges among our countrymen to the northward, and I hope that some of their ideas on this subject will meet with due consideration. On the 20th I walked out again, and as I met an old acquaintance on the road, who I knew was an ingenious man, I asked him if he had seen the works, and how matters were going on, but to my surprise, he seemed to know but very little about the business further than he thought the coffee-dam was

nearly full of water, and thus finding him (like many others) so totally indifferent, I proceeded and found it much as he said; also that the pumps were silenced, and some other appearances were rather discouraging.

On the 22d I went again in the morning, I observed the tide was high, but the scene was much more lively, six horses were employed at the pumps, and it appeared that the water had been exhausted from the mighty well to a degree far beyond my expectation. This being the case I had a mind to take a little more time, with all reasonable patience, to see what would be going forward, not doubting a continuance of the spirit in the overseers and workmen to make a further trial; this again was encouraging; and with all due complaisance to two of the directors whom I saw there, I was glad that some of their ideas were consistent with my own.

On the 25th, being as pleasant a day as could be desired at any season of the year, I again visited the river Schuylkil, which from a distance I could see appeared both calm and beautiful. On this side of the river I observed a great collection of materials, some exceeding large, and many others ready prepared, and properly numbered for the outside work of the intended pier. I contemplated with pleasure the future use of those materials, and wished they might be safely lodged in their proper destination. After this I



paid my ferriage as usual, crossed the temporary bridge, and proceeded to the coffre-dam, which I found as I thought in a state of great improvement; the obstruction which had been so formidable appeared to be nearly removed, the water was lowered perhaps to the deepest floor, and the two pumps with 7 horses, as well as one other with 12 men, and another pump of lesser consequence, were all actively employed, and consequently pouring out the water in great abundance. This, it may be easily supposed, was agreeable to me, and moreover, I was presented with two small pieces of the rock, which had just been bored, probably for the purpose of ascertaining the depth, about 38 feet from high water: these pieces I received from the complaisance of two principal workmen; and soon after I had an opportunity of shewing them to the smiling countenances of two others of the directors who were there this time, with an expectation that those pieces of the rock might have been the first they had seen, and undoubtedly must be to them, as well as to many others, agreeable symptoms of what may be reasonably expected with regard to a further progress. Since writing the foregoing I heard some intelligence respecting the works at Schuylkil, which if it had been a full representation of the case, would have been very discouraging, and almost sufficient to make me believe, that I might be again disappointed in my expectations concerning these works, as I was once

before respecting those of the canal, which I have before alluded to. After that intelligence, I was desirous of seeing for myself the actual situation of things, and determined to set off soon after breakfast this morning the 29th instant, November.

Agreeably to that intention I proceeded accordingly, and when I came within sight of what was going forward, who should I meet but my friend the master carpenter? I intimated that I had heard bad tidings, but I saw the business was not deserted: I thought his countenance appeared a little doubtful, but I told him in plain terms that I would not give up the matter; this happened just on this side of the bridge, and as I had no disposition to detain him, I soon proceeded, and on my arrival at the coffre-dam I saw, in addition to all the pumps before-mentioned, a new scene which was peculiarly agreeable—a number of men were fully employed at several different places to hoist up mud and sand from the bottom of the mighty well—I then looked down, and as there appeared but a small depth of water, I was soon induced to go near to the lowest floor of the ingenious fabric to make further observations: I could perceive nothing either improperly cold or damp in that situation, and was glad to believe myself there in a state of safety. I congratulated the master mason on the present appearance of their operations, and I believe that he as well as myself, was pleased with the idea

of his associates being employed in skilfully handling the first materials for a good foundation in a little time.

Thus believing there was reason to be satisfied with present appearances, I left the various workmen with good wishes for their success and general welfare ; and although I saw none of the directors of the institution at this visit, I have not much doubt but the curiosity of some of them will lead them, this fine afternoon, to see the progress of this interesting, pacific, and valuable undertaking. Pacific did I say ? and shall I not remember the pleasure I enjoyed, when the amicable works of peace were rapidly progressing, and appeared to be so much approved even by different parties among the European nations.

Had the prospects of a general peace been properly prosecuted in deeds as well as words, how honourable would it have been to mankind in general, and how rejoicing, in particular, to all the friends of humanity ; who in that case, would not have had to mourn the numerous lamentable scenes which have since existed. Fleets and armies with hostile intentions against a people who acknowledged themselves a part of the French nation, was such an event, that if every idea of principle and honour had been altogether out of the question, I firmly believed, from the first hearing of such preparations, that the single article of policy was abhorrent of such a proceeding ;

a proceeding in fact of such a nature that the friends of humanity in every country must revolt with painful feelings at the idea of the terrific, dreadful and mournful consequences. I do not wish to make any apology for such an apparent digression from my intended general subject, which nevertheless if that subject is recollected, who that knows the lately deserted situation of our city can forget the name of St. Domingo?

Neither can I forget another name, which, notwithstanding some of my last ideas, I have often considered as a durable honor to the French nation; and again acknowledge with pleasure, that some of the manly, and christian-like sentiments of Feron, will deserve to remain as valuable, and instructive lessons to the nations of different climes, even to the latest ages.

And now, without saying more on these latter subjects, perhaps it will be right to proceed to a piece which was written and copied before my return to the city, videlicet.

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*New Jersey, November 1st, 1802.*

PREVIOUS to the year 1793 the inhabitants of my native city, confident of the salubrity of our climate, were under no apprehensions of being driven from their homes by a wide spreading and mortal

calamity. From the beginning of the last century to that period, no extraordinary sickness of such a nature had occasioned any general alarm, and the former citizens of Philadelphia might with propriety rest satisfied in their own habitations, with a thankful sense of the favors of a benignant Providence, in the reasonable expectation of health, and even with a prospect of longevity, proportioned to the life of man in the most favored European climes.

Since the commencement of that fatal year 1793, how amazingly has the case been altered with respect to the once highly favored city of Philadelphia! Five times, a dreadful, infectious and contagious disease, has threatened the inhabitants. Two years in particular the mortality has been terrible to a great degree, and in three other years, had it not been for the general desertion of the citizens, it is reasonable to believe that thousands of those who are now survivors might have been numbered with their departed friends.

These sentiments appear to me so undeniable, that I should think they cannot be contradicted, even by that part of my fellow-citizens who are most indifferent as to such events.

Much has been written from time to time on the melancholy subject, containing the clearest proofs, by

various writers, that the dire disease has been imported; and this affecting truth has been so manifest, that previous to the late importation, warnings were given to this express purpose, that the approach and continuance of a single infected vessel at one of our wharves, at some particular times, might endanger the city in such a manner, as again to put to flight the numerous inhabitants, who have been so frequently distressed on similar occasions.

How justifiable such a sentiment was at the time it was published, one would suppose might be left to the judgment of any candid inquirer, who has had an opportunity of being acquainted with numerous recent circumstances, concerning which a collection has been lately exhibited to the view of the public in several of our daily papers. Awful indeed has been the time since the publication alluded to. The disease appears to have much increased in the latter part of October, and numbers who had been abroad for many weeks, having returned to their habitations in various parts of the city, have fallen victims to the mortal calamity, leaving their friends to mourn on account of their apparent untimely deaths.

To reflect at large on the numerous losses, perplexities and difficulties, of great numbers of my fellow-citizens, is not my present object, many no doubt who with their families had left their homes, have in many instances experienced such distress, that in some



cases, even the alternative of the most probable danger, appeared to them more eligible than the longer continuance of an involuntary exile. It is not on my own account I have this sentiment, but it is for many others I feel a sympathy.

I now think that however lightly some may have treated this subject, yet I am ready to confess that I have a pleasing satisfaction in knowing, that there are others who think as I do, that it is a subject of great importance, and that an attention to it ought not to be neglected. Philadelphia is a place of incalculable value, it deserves not to be compared to the infected Cairo, and it appears to me, that it may be the duty of some of its native sons to strive to deliver its character from such an imputation.

What ! if it has been difficult for some men to find the means of expressing their sentiments on such a subject, yet such expression has been sometimes admitted into the public papers. As to further publications, intended by various writers on the same occasion, discouragement has been the consequence, and thus our fellow-citizens have been prevented from an adequate knowledge of very important and deeply interesting truths.

I now believe it right to republish some pieces, which may be found in papers of different printers,

not doubting of their appearing well adapted to the solemn occasion, as they will shew some of the circumstances which have actually happened from time to time, and have been thought deserving of attention at different periods. If the present writer has a wish that the Pennsylvania hospital should be benefited by this publication, he hopes no man will think such a motive incompatible with other objects promotive of the public welfare.

Without any intention of interfering with others, who may be much better qualified than I am, to enumerate additional accounts of the progress of the disease, and its fatal consequences in the present year 1802, I now conclude this introductory essay to the pieces intended to be republished, which are as follow, videlicet.

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*From the Philadelphia Gazette, dated 23d April, 1800.*

WHEN I read letters from Britain containing the sympathetic feelings of her inhabitants, on account of those dreadful and mortal calamities, with which the people of America have been lately afflicted, I am ready to hope, that, notwithstanding the unaccountable apathy of too many, yet that a disposition is still existing, which would labor to investigate the cause of evils of such an extraordinary magnitude,



and attentively consider the probable means of prevention previous to their recurrence, wherever may be the danger.

Perhaps some may say, what are the evils so strenuously alluded to? Have not thousands and tens of thousands of the inhabitants of different cities survived the effects of contagion, and been totally exempted from the dangers of the yellow fever?—True! “But is it not also just” to recapitulate some of the actual circumstances; which may be done in a few words.

It is well known that in the year 1793 there was a dreadful sickness in Philadelphia, which swept off thousands of its inhabitants; that in the year 1797 the malady again prevailed; that in the year 1798 the destruction was terribly extensive, and in all probability, might have been incomparably more so if the city had not been generally deserted, and great numbers of the houses totally forsaken by their tenants; threatened again, a fourth time, in the year 1799, by the same disease, the city once more became, with respect to its usual inhabitants, like a place of desolation.

These facts being undeniable, the accounts of them have reached to foreign countries, and observations are made in foreign letters adapted to the

mournful occasion. In one of those letters dated in Birmingham, I have seen sentiments expressed agreeably to the following purport; that as the yellow fever is again common to New York as well as to Philadelphia, “ it may possibly at last unite the two cities in the necessary exertions to prevent the continual importation of a malady, so fatal to individual, and injurious to national prosperity.” The writer proceeds with a striking remark respecting the ideas of the people in that country, where, (he adds) “ it stamps the United States with a character of general unhealthiness;—nobody, (he says) will believe that it has been suffered to spring year after year from a foreign source, while the plague, which used to visit London in twenty or thirty years, has been shut out by an effectual quarantine for near a century and a half: this is now enforced with the usual strictness, on account of the pestilence at present raging in Morocco, and which would otherwise in all human probability soon be introduced here, by the constant intercourse with the Mediterranean.”

Such, it appears, are the sentiments in Britain; what then must be those of the considerate part of the community, so deeply interested in the commercial cities of America? Cities, which, it is well known, for more than ninety successive years, were never much alarmed even with an imported contagion; and it is believed, that during the whole peri-

od, there was no good reason to apprehend that such a disease as the yellow fever could originate among them. On the contrary, I shall just mention one of the remarkable instances, within my knowledge, of its not spreading in the city of Philadelphia, in a case of importation which occurred the last year.—A gentleman arrived from New York, where he undoubtedly had taken the infection, but as his case was at first unknown, he was received at lodgings in a populous part of Second-street, where it soon appeared he was ill with the fever, and where after lingering a few days, in a miserable condition, he died ; but notwithstanding some extraordinary and dangerous incidents relative to this alarming circumstance, the neighbourhood continued free from this disorder as before, which in the opinion of the present writer, is among the proofs, that had it not been for importation in that and other cases, our city would have enjoyed its usual health, and also that the state of the atmosphere in the year 1799, was evidently such as to be in opposition to the spreading of the disease, even after it was imported.

With a full persuasion that a public duty, forbids a total silence on the subject of these remarks, I remain with anxious solicitude for the welfare of my country, and believe there will be no impropriety in subscribing myself

AN AMERICAN.

*From the American Daily Advertiser, dated 31st  
October, 1800.*

ON reading in this day's paper the letter of the committee of correspondence in Philadelphia, and the answer from the board of health at Baltimore, I observe that an actual remittance was made of three thousand dollars from Philadelphia, and that the same was accepted for the purpose for which it was intended. This to me was very agreeable intelligence, as well as that a further sum was likely to be remitted ; for, if any judgment may be formed of the state of Baltimore by what was feelingly acknowledged to be the case in Philadelphia under the like circumstances, where is the humane man in either of those cities but must rejoice to see the prevalence of a spirit of benevolence, so truly honorable as a part of the American character.

To relieve the distressed, to console the afflicted, are noble objects ; and in times of general calamity, which have frequently happened of late years in different cities, it is well known that the disposition of my countrymen for charitable purposes, without being confined to this or that particular situation, has been eminently conspicuous.

Had a general disposition been equally evident to investigate and understand the causes of those calamities, by giving a fair opportunity for such investigation, I have no doubt that, under the favor of a superintending Providence, those calamities might have been lessened in a very considerable degree; and that by the same rule that occasion was taken to congratulate the city of Baltimore for her exemption from the yellow fever in the year 1798, when such dreadful mortality prevailed in other cities of America—by the same rule, the city of Philadelphia may be now congratulated under a serious and religious idea of the joyful tidings announced some weeks since by our board of health, in this becoming and expressive language:—"Impressed with a sense of gratitude to the great Author of all our blessings, we thankfully acknowledge his protecting Providence over this city, being as perfectly free from sickness as at any period within our knowledge."—That communication of the board of health contains a striking and memorable fact respecting the city of Philadelphia, similar to the experience of a number of her native sons previous to the year 1793, who for a long course of years before that time knew our city to be a healthy situation, and in which no such disorder as the yellow fever had ever in their time occasioned much alarm, even though there might have been at distant periods, a few cases of importa-

tion, as it is probable there have been with respect to a few individual sojourners even in the present year, but certainly without much apparent danger.

How different would have been our situation during the late summer, if some particular vessels had approached the city ? in which case a communication with infection would no doubt have been the consequence, a spreading of the disease might have been reasonably apprehended, and very possibly the city again disturbed by a general desertion of its inhabitants.

With sincere wishes that Philadelphia, Baltimore, and other cities may be preserved in future from the dire calamity ; I offer this to the succeeding printer of the American Daily Advertiser, believing it right to do so, and in order to know whether such a communication will be acceptable from .

A CONTINUED CUSTOMER.

As the printer Z. Poulson, jun. was so attentive to the foregoing essay as to annex to it a number of particulars respecting the mortality in several different years, it is believed there will be no impropriety in adding the same account on the present occasion, viz.



*A comparative Statement of the Number of DEATHS which occurred each Day in the City of PHILADELPHIA, from the first of August to the last day of October, in the Years 1793, 1797, 1798 and 1799, during the prevalence of the CONTAGIOUS PESTILENTIAL FEVER.*

Days.	AUGUST.				SEPTEMBER.				OCTOBER.			
	1793	1797	1798	1799	1793	1797	1798	1799	1793	1797	1798	1799
1	9	5	5	9	19	16	48	10	76	22	85	8
2	8	4	4	10	19	11	41	9	69	17	83	10
3	9	7	6	7	18	17	28	23	79	24	49	5
4	10	10	5	5	24	19	65	12	60	27	46	12
5	10	6	7	8	25	15	67	20	72	14	36	15
6	9	11	9	9	26	9	50	14	77	17	38	14
7	12	9	7	7	22	13	52	31	83	21	25	16
8	8	7	10	10	43	16	63	9	91	8	29	13
9	11	9	12	6	36	32	73	30	103	13	20	12
10	9	10	7	7	31	27	74	14	97	20	14	11
11	8	9	16	5	27	30	73	19	119	14	43	10
12	6	8	20	7	35	27	71	17	111	15	41	5
13	11	8	17	9	38	18	57	17	105	19	27	10
14	6	11	20	7	49	17	61	9	83	13	40	8
15	9	7	27	8	56	23	60	3	82	7	34	9
16	7	10	17	10	69	15	62	16	71	11	32	8
17	7	12	15	8	82	16	68	9	81	15	25	5
18	8	9	19	19	72	15	57	14	61	19	25	6
19	10	8	24	12	64	16	58	11	66	11	34	7
20	8	10	16	11	68	20	69	11	58	5	19	5
21	9	9	20	10	61	6	78	18	60	11	14	8
22	13	11	31	17	77	17	68	16	83	7	20	6
23	14	13	20	18	70	28	71	20	56	5	22	5
24	17	11	25	20	97	23	63	25	42	5	17	4
25	16	12	40	18	88	33	80	21	36	5	16	7
26	17	14	48	21	58	24	77	24	25	10	20	7
27	18	16	34	13	62	14	86	15	17	8	20	6
28	22	14	36	10	55	17	106	16	25	5	16	5
29	23	10	33	12	59	21	75	9	19	5	22	6
30	20	14	45	14	64	24	85	13	17	9	15	4
31	17	9	31	19					21	4	16	5
To.	361	303	626	346	1514	579	2004	475	2045	386	943	252

### RECAPITULATION.

1793.	1797.	1798.	1799.
August 361	August 303	August 626	August 346
September 1514	September 579	September 2004	September 475
October 2045	October 386	October 943	October 252
Total 3920	Total 1268	Total 3573	Total 1073

*Note,* From a review of the bills of mortality, published before the year 1793, it appears, that the deaths in the city of Philadelphia, during the preceding months, (which is the most unhealthy period of the year,) would not average more than *Six* a day, if the city were not afflicted with this *Fever*, notwithstanding its increased population.

*For the American Daily Advertiser.*

ON reading the letters published on the morning of the 26th inst. respecting the city of Cadiz, I was struck with astonishment, and was ready to make some comparisons with respect to what I had actually known as an inhabitant of a city, which had been afflicted, in some degree, in a similar manner, with a dreadful, contagious and mortal calamity; a calamity which of itself was sufficient to bow the stoutest heart, and make the man of the greatest fortitude acknowledge his debility; but in our case, no hostile armaments were thought of to add to our distress—we were left as it were in the hands of a superior power, and at full liberty to fly for our lives without interruption from our fellow men.—Thousands of lives were probably saved by such flight; and as to property to a vast amount, although hastily deserted, and unguarded by human means, yet thanks be to Providence, it was generally preserved in a wonderful manner for the rightful owners until their return. Such, it is well known, has been the actual situation of the favored city of Philadelphia, especially at two different periods; and if the certain knowledge of such circumstances are not sufficient to cause a sympathy in many minds, I know not where we shall look for a due affection



for the “ milder virtues.” \* Let me then consider some of the circumstances of the unknown inhabitants of another populous city, and attempt in a brief manner to promote a valuable purpose, if it should be but like a mite cast into the treasury, at a most uncommon period, on the subject of general humanity.

In a paper dated the 20th instant, there are these and other remarkable particulars concerning the situation of Cadiz on the 4th September, from the account of the governor’s secretary.

“ Convalescent	25,000
Died up to the 4th Sept.	7,000
Sick	8,000
Left Cadiz for adjacent towns	33,000
	<hr/>
Total	73,000

“ The convent in which the Franciscan friars resided, contained one hundred and fifty, out of which one hundred died.”

\* “ milder virtues.” These words are quoted from a beautiful expression of an inhabitant of Mount Vernon in the year 1788, a year remarkable in Europe, as well as in America for the prevalence of such sentiments in favor of general humanity, as will be always honorable to the christian character.

In the early part of October, a mighty fleet appeared before Cadiz ; the Spaniards who remained were alarmed, and minute guns were fired along the coast.

On the fifth, a letter was written by the governor of Cadiz to the commanders of the fleet, to which a reply was forwarded, and on the 6th it appears an answer was sent to that reply ; but in truth the whole subject is so extremely affecting, and of such a nature, that perhaps it is best to mention no particulars concerning the contents of those letters. They are conspicuous proofs of what the spirit of war may possibly lead to, if not interfered with by a superintending Providence. For my part, I am thankful in a belief, that such an interference was remarkably evident, and prevented an attack, which if it had been made, would most probably have been attended with, and followed by, horrors unparalleled, and beyond the powers of description. Let not imagination dwell on such a melancholy subject, apparently threatening immediate inevitable misery to thousands and eventually to “ thousands upon thousands,” in case the troops had landed ; but with different feelings, let me repeat a memorable anecdote respecting a Spanish officer towards an enemy. The pleadings of humanity, it appears to me, were so completely exemplified by the conduct of that officer in a certain case, which he acknow-

ledged to be “an act of God,” that I hope a republication of that instructive anecdote will be acceptable in the following words :

“ In 1746, when we were in hot war with Spain, the Elizabeth of London, Captain William Edwards, coming through the Gulph from Jamaica, richly laden, met with a most violent storm, in which the ship sprung a leak, that obliged them, for the saving of lives, to run her into the Havannah. The captain went on shore, directly waited on the governor, told the occasion of his putting in, and that he surrendered his ship as a prize, and himself and his men as prisoners of war, only requesting good quarter. No, Sir, replied the governor, if we had taken you in fair war at sea, or approaching our coast with hostile intentions, your ship would then have been a prize, and your people prisoners. But when distressed by a tempest, you come into our ports for the safety of your lives, we, though enemies being men, are bound as such by the laws of humanity, to afford relief to distressed men, who ask it of us. We cannot, even against our enemies, take an advantage of an act of God. You have leave therefore to unload your ship, if that be necessary to stop the leak ; you may refit here, and traffic so far as shall be necessary to pay the charges ; you may then depart, and I will give you a pass, to be in force till you are beyond Bermuda. If after that

you are taken you will be a prize, but now you are only a stranger, and have a stranger's right to safety and protection. The ship accordingly departed and arrived safe in London."

That the nations of every name, may be more and more inclined to desist from war; and, that peace, the best of blessings, may soon succeed and promote the general happiness, is again the concluding wish of

*A Friend of Humanity.*

Dec. 29, 1800.

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*For the American Daily Advertiser.*

THE astonishing and contradictory tales about the yellow fever, which have been lately published in several papers, are really of such a nature, that it is now become a question, whether it is not the duty of those who have given attention to the subject to express some of their sentiments, in a firm and decent manner, consistent with truth and propriety: and if this can be done without giving occasion of offence to any, it may be reasonably hoped, or at least it is possible, that such an intended public service may be of use with respect to future periods, when any thing like the present reigning fervor of opposition may have entirely subsided.

To proceed in this line it appears to me that there are two objects which particularly present themselves ;—the first is, the happy situation of the city of Philadelphia in a state of total exemption from any danger, or even the least alarm concerning the yellow fever, for the space of two succeeding summers. And the second is, the experience, and perhaps it may be called the certain knowledge of a number of the inhabitants, for a long course of years, during the increase of the city, even from its small beginnings.

To trace these objects, let it not be said, that a short explanation of the most undoubted facts respecting our city, are meant as a reflection on any other of the cities on the continent ; for however clear it has been proved by various documents that the calamities which have prevailed in Philadelphia in the years 1793, 97, 98, and in a smaller degree in 1799, originated from importation ; yet if some of the inhabitants of New York, Baltimore, Charleston, or Norfolk, will have it so that their cities owe their calamities of the same sort to a domestic origin ; let us in that case leave them to their own ideas ; but it would be quite unreasonable that the Philadelphians should follow such an opinion in direct contradiction to their own senses and certain knowledge with regard to the city, in which they dwell.

With respect to the first object particularly alluded to, let the present healthy situation of our city bear witness; and let it be remembered with all due respect to our board of health, that not a single vessel has been knowingly permitted to approach our wharves with contagious disorder on board, for the two last summers; and that during the whole time not a single inhabitant has removed on any just occasion of alarm. In truth, the confidence in our board of health was so general and well founded, that all those who chose the city for a place of residence might safely continue in it without fear or apprehension.

With respect to the second object. There is no necessity of referring particularly to former publications, except with regard to the first importation of the yellow fever, more than one hundred years since, when Philadelphia in its infant state was grievously afflicted with that calamity, and lost a considerable number of the new settlers.

From that period 1699 to the year 1793, it is well ascertained that no extraordinary alarm existed on account of such a disorder: but from the last mentioned period, about eight years since, memory may readily serve for some of the melancholy particulars with regard to our city.



In the summer of 1793 the fatal disorder was imported into Philadelphia, and first prevailed in Water-street above Arch-street. The sailors died by numbers at the lodging houses in that quarter ; the neighbourhood was soon infected, and in a little time the disease spread further and further, and finally about 4000 of the inhabitants were cut off by the mortal contagion.

In the years 1794, 95, and 96, it does not appear that in Philadelphia, any such disorder was imported.

In 1794, it is well known to the present writer, that both New York and our city were in a remarkable healthy state in the warmest weather of that year ; notwithstanding which New York was grievously afflicted by the dire contagion in the year 1795 ; and it would be an easy matter to mention the names of several vessels by which it was then and there imported, as well as sundry other circumstances relating to the calamity in that city.

In 1797, the disease was brought again to Philadelphia ; it broke out in Penn-street, which, had it not been for its vicinity to the infected ships, was one of the least suspected parts of the city ; great alarm soon prevailed below the draw-bridge ; the deaths were numerous : and I know of one man, a considerable mill owner, who came from the country, just

passed along in that quarter, called, on business, at a house in the infected neighbourhood, went home, sickened, and died in a few days, leaving a large family to lament their loss.

The same year was remarkable for the deaths of Doctor Way, and an uncommon number of other physicians; concerning whom a short but respectful memorial was published in this city, near the close of the sickness.

In the year 1798 the dreadful fever was again imported, it raged violently throughout our city; and the havoc it made was truly terrible; among the numerous victims, many valuable men fell in that fatal year.

In the year 1799, proofs enough were manifest of a fresh importation; thousands and tens of thousands fled again from the city; and although we lost a number of respectable citizens, yet the spread of the disease was not so generally conspicuous, especially north of Market-street.

Thus having just sketched the outlines of several remarkable periods, I believe it right to add a small tribute of respect and acknowledgment to our board of health, for their care of the inhabitants of our city, during the two last seasons: and with a thankful disposition for the favors of a superinten-



ding Providence in our preservation, I hope that those favors will be continued to my native city : as well as that the other cities of America may be kept in future from so dreadful and mortal a calamity as the yellow fever.

*A Philadelphian.*

October 21st 1801.

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*For the American Daily Advertiser.*

HAVING read the seventh ingenious letter from the Hindu Philosopher in this day's paper, I took particular notice of one of his sentiments, perhaps too strongly expressed in this manner. " Party spirit and the lust of gain rule the American nation with such undivided sway, as to engross every passion, and enlist every propensity." This sentiment appears to me to want some qualification ; and if we will consider the noble, general and manly efforts, which have been exhibited to relieve the distressed in times of great calamity, perhaps it would be well if such an idea as this, so honorable to our country, should accompany that of the Hindu Philosopher. I have known the time when party distinctions have been laid aside, and even the sympathetic feelings of opposites in political notions, remarkably manifested towards each other ; their views and exertions being freely united for the public benefit

amidst the mutual danger : but perhaps that time was not so well known to the entertaining writer above alluded to. Great indeed were the disinterested efforts of my countrymen at several awful periods ; and although the distresses frequently experienced may have passed away, yet as they are not to be forgotten, perhaps the following additional remarks arising from recent circumstances, may not be unacceptable to the printer of the *American Daily Advertiser*.

When the minds of the citizens of Philadelphia were deeply impressed with a sense of those calamities which were occasioned by the prevalence of the yellow fever, particularly in the years 1793 and 1798, it may be well remembered what an anxiety was manifested by many, and even by the legislature, to consider the most proper means of using such endeavors as were practicable to prevent the recurrence of such calamities. This undoubtedly was a becoming concern, and truly justifiable on the most virtuous and patriotic principles, and it might have been expected would have met the approbation of every friend of humanity. How surprising is it then, that at the very time, when a neighbouring city was in some degree afflicted with so dangerous a disorder, injurious reflections should be cast on the Philadelphians for their care on so important an occasion ? Had not the yellow fever existed in New-York

we should hardly have heard of such a case as the following, which appears by an authentic account, dated there the 14th October last, viz. “ On Wednesday morning died Mr. Charles Miller, copper-smith, and since that his wife, her sister, and an apprentice boy, all of whom were in good health eight days ago,” and this immediately following another account of the death of “ a promising youth in the 17th year of his age,” who had been employed in one of the printing offices, and particularly mentioned to have died “ of the prevailing fever.”

This is not introduced by way of alarm at the present time, for we know, and have reason to rejoice that the season is far advanced, and that a considerable frost has occurred, although no doubt a few such instances, when they happened were sufficient to drive a number of the inhabitants from the city. Had even a small number of such cases occurred in the summer months, it may be easily imagined from what has happened in Philadelphia, that the flight of tens of thousands might have been necessary to avoid the dire effects of a mortal contagion. But thanks be to Providence, the disorder appears to have been limited this year to a short continuance to the northward; and I repeat a wish, that no unaccountable and unreasonable apathy may set aside the use of those means in our power, which ought to be properly exerted to prevent the recurrence of such

calamities. It is well known that the city of Philadelphia has been happily exempt from any alarm for two succeeding summers: great quantities of merchandise have been brought up in lighters from fundry vessels at different times, and although this may have been inconvenient to many of the traders, yet that inconvenience has been reputably submitted to; and some of the anecdotes respecting them have been truly honorable, such as that, agreeable to a noble expression, they would not be the means of bringing a mortal disease to the city, for any prospect of gain whatever.

Now lest some of my countrymen should take offence at the mention of two instances of the effects of the late prevailing fever in one city, without mentioning other distant cities, I may just say, that the melancholy instances of the same nature in Philadelphia at several periods, were indeed so numerous, that with respect to many particulars, nothing short of a history of those periods would be competent to so mournful an occasion.

With a thankful sense to a benignant Providence for our exemption as before mentioned, and sincerely hoping that the cities of America may be favored with such health as was generally experienced by their inhabitants before the year 1793, I remain their friend and well wisher.

*A Philadelphian.*

November 10, 1801.

*To the Printer of the American Daily Advertiser.*

A short piece having appeared in the American Daily Advertiser dated the 30th ultimo, with the signature of "A Friend to Mankind," I have waited for several days to see if any of my fellow-citizens would publicly take notice of it; but whether it was from a fear of entering "a field of controversy with the learned medical characters of the present day," or from whatever cause, certain it is, I have seen no observations on those important hints, contained in that brief, sensible, and thoughtful performance.

I knew nothing of that piece, until I saw it published; but as it is my lot to have no such fear about controversy, as that apparently apprehended by that writer; I believe some sentiments on the subject he particularly alludes to will be quite proper at the present time, and may possibly be of some consequence to the promotion of a reasonable, timely, and guarded care for the safety of our city during the approaching summer.

With these ideas, and with all due respect to the medical characters in our city, I shall first give them that credit which I believe they so generally merit, in their unitedly approving of the new mode of mi-



tigating the terrors of that common disorder, the small-pox, which was formerly so fatal to great numbers, and frequently so extremely injurious to the comeliness and beauty of many survivors, whose lot it was to be grievously afflicted with that baneful and terrible disorder ; a disease in truth of so contagious a nature, as to be scarcely avoidable to the inhabitants of populous towns, or to those who occasionally visited therein. Inoculation, as practised for many years, in the common mode, has apparently saved the lives of thousands ; but from the numerous recent proofs of the safety and benefits of vaccination, I am clearly of opinion that such an additional favor granted to the knowledge of men, is worthy of due attention ; and I hope the respectable physicians of our city and other places, will not think me too officious in so heartily concurring on this subject.

As to the other matter, I mean the awful calamity of “ pestilence :” Let any man who has any pretence to the name of a Philadelphian, reflect on his certain knowledge of what has been experienced in this city within a few years, and then say whether it is not a laudable anxiety, to strive to prevent, as much as may be in our power, the recurrence of the like terrible and dreadfully extensive evils. That “ an epidemic fever bordering on the plague” (as another writer has expressed it) that such a disease,



commonly denominated the yellow fever, has been imported, at several times, into New York and Philadelphia, within the space of nine years, and has been attended with great mortality, is a truth so well ascertained, that for any man, even for a single one, to deny it must appear totally unaccountable; the proofs being as incontrovertible as any of those can possibly be respecting the effects of vaccination; or according to my opinion, as that the sun gives light to the earth, and has a powerful influence on the fruitfulness of its various productions.

Such then having been the case, concerning which much has been written, why should we not consider the matter as it really is? With respect to Philadelphia, we well know what has occurred at several different periods, which although it would be very easy to recapitulate numerous particulars, yet as the circumstances alluded to are of so recent a date, as to be within the memory of many young people who are not yet grown up, perhaps a general reference to memory for such late existing circumstances, may suffice at the present time.

To me it appears that the question is not whether a few men shall obtain a small additional profit on their merchandise, or whether a few others shall have an opportunity to shew a fearless disposition of stoicism, or total indifference as to what may hap-

pen; these in my opinion are not the questions adapted for a grand community, but that the proper question in reality is, whether thousands and tens of thousands shall be at the hazard of being routed from their homes, by a fresh importation of a dreadful and mortal disease, which from what has been certainly known, appears to have been of so contagious a nature in thousands of instances, that there is the greatest reason to believe, that the approach and continuance of a single infected vessel at one of our wharves, at some particular times, might endanger the city in such a manner, as again to put to flight the numerous inhabitants, who have been so frequently distressed on similar occasions.

Now I do not mean by any thing I have said to take off from that credit so justly due to our board of health for the two last years, nor from the respectable acquiescence with needful regulations on the part of the merchants and traders of our city. On the contrary, we have reason to acknowledge, that under their care, and “ the blessing of a beneficent Providence,” our city has been so remarkably exempt from the dangers of the yellow fever, that it was not necessary for a single individual, during the space above specified, to remove from the place of his abode, under any of those fearful apprehensions, which made our city, in some respects, like a dreary desert, in the years 1793 and 1798 in particular;

and in the years 1797 and 1799, were the occasion of a melancholy desertion of the inhabitants, to avoid by flight the impending dangers, which were so clearly manifested by the sudden deaths of considerable numbers, even in those years, which were not so much distinguished for the greatness of the mortality.

In full agreement with the pious and patriotic wishes in the concluding paragraph of the unknown writer "A Friend to Mankind," and most sincerely desirous that there may be a great increase of those who may deserve the title he has adopted, I hope there will be no impropriety in following his example, and concluding this essay with the same honorable signature.

*Another Friend to Mankind.*

April 6th, 1802.

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THUS having attended to a number of Essays, some of which have been published at various periods, I hope there will be no impropriety in again adverting to a work which I have frequently visited, with such a confidence in the best intentions of the managers, as to be generally satisfied with the progress of those preparations which have been judged necessary for a permanent bridge, to facilitate an

immediate intercourse from either side of the beautiful river Schuylkil.

On the 20th instant, December, after considering the uncommon severity of the weather, which was experienced particularly on the 16th, 17th and 18th days of the present month, I had an inclination to know what might have been the effects on the works at Schuylkil, and as the weather had now become quite moderate, I proceeded to the coffre dam, and with great satisfaction I soon found the spirit of activity appeared to be afresh excited,—large quantities of rough stone had been brought forward, much had already been conveyed to the bottom of the river, and numbers of men were employed in breaking and fixing them for the foundation of the intended pier. This was all agreeable to me, as from the best of my understanding, and from the information of the master mason (who I had the pleasure of seeing there this time) I have cause to believe that a good firm foundation will be acquired, although not quite in the exact manner which had been contemplated, that is to say, to begin the noble structure immediately upon the mighty rock. To do that I knew had been much labored for; but when all is done that can be done without running the greatest risque, or at least being subjected to a most discouraging delay, the consequences of which no man could foresee, I truly believed it was best to proceed as they had done,

and more especially as it appears by information that the rock is remarkably regular on its surface, there not being much more than 18 inches difference with respect to a level, from one end of the projected work to the other ; this it is said has been ascertained by actual boring in numerous places.

Who then can doubt but that after the most skilful preparations three or four tiers of the most weighty stone, suitably deposited and secured, will settle on the remaining three or four feet of covering on the rock to good satisfaction ?

At this visit I saw several of my fellow-citizens, and among them one who had been, from time to time, particularly attentive to the operations, and almost unreasonably anxious to see the rock ; I told him some of my ideas on the subject, and as in his observations, he luckily mentioned the word spring, I thought I had a fine opportunity to put him in mind of what had happened some years since, in consequence of a most extraordinary fresh : this appeared very apropos, for I found he not only recollected it, but could tell me about the poor horse, who had got up into the chamber of the ferry house to save his life from the surrounding dangers. After further conversation with the gentleman alluded to, I thought he was almost reconciled to the works going forward on their present plan, and



after all, I have no doubt of his good wishes for their complete success. He informed me of one matter that was very pleasing, and perhaps it might be the more so as it related to the article of ice; he told me that the wonderful recent frost was in favor of the coffre-dam; I understood him at once, for no doubt, wherever there was any part that could admit water down to the lowest tide, all must be so far immediately filled up, and under that circumstance, the leaks considerably diminished perhaps for several days; so that some part of the labor of continual pumping might be properly dispensed with; and I am very glad the poor horses could have a little more time to rest, which I have no doubt they have sometimes stood in need of: I further think, if the famous pier should be successfully carried on, that those horses who have so faithfully contributed to the work, will deserve a peculiar attention even in future time.

This day the 24th December 1802, being as I expect a memorable day to numbers as well as to myself, I shall relate some particulars to shew the reason for such an opinion. In the morning about 11 o'Clock there were in view from the city, nine or ten topsail vessels commencing their voyages, the wind N. W. and no material obstruction from ice, there having been a succession of very moderate and foggy weather for several days: I hope



those vessels, and several others, which put off in the morning, may have arrived safe at Reedy Island this evening, as they had the advantage of all the ebb tide ; which advantage appears to have been prudently attended to, by setting off two or three hours before it was high water.

In the afternoon I made another excursion to Schuylkil, and found the bridge works were advancing in a very satisfactory manner. I observed that a number of the large hewn stone were now brought forward. I looked down the ingenious and substantial fabric called the coffre-dam, and was in hopes that some of those grand materials had reached the bottom : not satisfied with this, I first deliberated, and then proceeded gradually from ladder to ladder, until at length I was so near the bottom, that I thought it would be a curiosity to walk upon it, being now in so dry a state as to admit of all these proceedings, as I believed, without any danger. In this situation, sheltered from the wind, I had the pleasure of seeing the masons fixing and levelling the first hewn stone as a commencement of the noble pier ; and I doubt not the complaisance of the workmen would have admitted even a further intrusion, so far as to have touched that first material, if I had requested it in a manner suitably adapted to so uncommon an occasion ; however, without any interruption to their business, I did not omit

such an attention to several others of those first materials, which were just at hand, and expected to be soon deposited in their proper situations.

I now congratulate the master workmen, and all their assistants, on the present situation of their operations, which must undoubtedly afford the means of full employ to a great number of men, even during the winter season; and to their employers the agreeable prospect of a successful issue to a grand undertaking, which may be properly characterized as an interesting and useful work; altogether pacific in its nature, and therefore peculiarly agreeable to an individual, who would rejoice to see the honorable principles of christianity, more generally cherished and promulgated amongst mankind.

And now, as I have no objection to an allusion to a time, so long distinguished in many countries, and leading the mind to serious reflection, I shall just add: if in some succeeding days, the gracious import of those dignified words, “Peace on earth, and good will to men,” should be duly impressed, with christian boldness, on the minds of numerous hearers in various congregations. I say, if this should be the case, the approaching anniversary may be a memorable period for religious services;

which if exercised consistent with comely order, and for the general benefit, among the different denominations without exception, it will be intelligence indeed of valuable importance, and I hope, under a sense of the propriety of due humility, will be very acceptable to their friend.

A PHILADELPHIAN.

THE END.



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